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The clinical significance of prostaglandins and thromboxane as mediators of septic shock

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Summary An evaluation was made of 106 surgical patients with Gram-negative septic shock, both for clinical criteria as well as the biochemical mediators endotoxin, prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$, prostaglandin I_2 (prostacyclin), and thromboxane. These data were correlated to various defined shock phases, functional data of vital organs, and clinical outcome. Patients underwent

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 Berger, D. (1995) Incidence and pathophysiological relevance of postoperative invasive organ function monitoring and the usual laboratory tests of intensive care. Prostaglandins and thromboxane were measured radioimmunologically, endotoxin by the limulus amebocyte lysate test. Endotoxin proved to be a more accurate predictor of severe sepsis than did positive blood cultures. Endotoxin as well as prostaglandins and thromboxane are predominantly released in early shock phases, appearing in plasma concentrations, which correlate with the severity of organ failure. Sepsis-induced respiratory failure coincides with a deterioration of pulmonary prostaglandin inactivation, which contributes to the release mechanism. High systemic prostacyclin activity benefits the patients' organ functions and clinical outcomes, while a predominance of thromboxane seems to effect the opposite. Transpulmonary-thromboxane gradients correlate significantly with pulmonary hypertension in the early phases of septic shock.

Key words Septic shock -Endotoxin - Eicosanoids -Prostaglandins - Thromboxane

Abbreviations AaDO₂ Alveolararterial O₂ gradient - AAS
Arachidonic acid system - ARDS
Acute respiratory distress
syndrome - CI Cardiac index CrCl Creatinine clearance - DIC
Disseminated intravascular
coagulation - EU Endotoxin unit EU/ml Endotoxin unit per
milliliter - HYPER Hyperdynamic
shock - HYPO Hypodynamic
septic shock - KH₂PGF₂ 13,14Dihydro-15-Keto-PGF₂ - 6-K-

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m PGF}_{1\,lpha}$ 6-Keto-PGF $_{1lpha}$ - LPS Lipopolysaccharide - MABP Mean arterial blood pressure - Norm Normal values - PG Prostaglandin - pg/ml Picogram per milliliter - PGI $_2$ Prostacyclin - PVR Pulmonary vascular resistance - SVR Systemic vascular resistance - TX Thromboxane

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